

### **REMARKS**

This amendment is in response to the Non-final Office Action mailed November 15, 2006. Claims 1, 11, 12, 15, 16, 20, 24, 31, 34, 36, 38, and 39 have been amended and claims 25-30 have been cancelled. Claims 1-24 and 31-39 are presently pending. No new matter has been added.

### **Objection**

Claim 1 was objected to for reciting “the system” on line 7. The Applicant respectfully submits that the term “the system” is correct and refers to the “system to view multimedia content” recited at the beginning of claim 1 and does not refer to one of the “plurality of client systems” recited at line 3 of claim 1. The Applicant requests withdrawal of this rejection.

### **§102 and §103 Rejections**

Claims 1-4, 7-11, 15, 16, 18-20, 22-24, 31, 32, 34, 34, 38, and 39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 2005/0251827 to Ellis et al. (“Ellis”). Claims 5, 6, 12-14, 17, 21, 25-30, 33, 36, and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ellis in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,321,236 to Zollinger et al. (“Zollinger”). The Applicant traverses these rejections.

Each of independent claims 1, 11, 15, 20, 31, 34, 36, 38, and 39 recites a plurality of client systems or access devices and a plurality of user objects where each of the user objects defines interaction of a respective user with the system. In other words, the present invention is directed to systems that utilize user objects (e.g., individual user profiles). A user logs onto a respective user object to access the system. The user object can be accessed from each of the client systems/access devices.

Ellis does not teach or suggest this arrangement. Instead of user objects associated with a respective user, Ellis teaches settings/profiles that are location or equipment based. (See, e.g., Figures 11, 13, and 14, as well as the text at [0092], [0093].) These profiles/settings are configurations for individual items of television equipment and are not specific to a user. Although the television equipment may be identified by a user’s name (e.g., parent’s room or children’s room)

the profile in Ellis for that particular television equipment is the same regardless of the actual user. For example, if a parent uses the television in the children's room the profile for that television is the same as if the children were using that television. The profiles/settings in this particular example are related to the television in the children's room, not a profile for the children themselves. In other words, the profiles/settings are equipment-specific, not user-specific. Accordingly, these profiles/settings are not user objects as recited in the claims because the profiles/settings are not associated with a respective user of the access devices/client systems.

Furthermore, there is no teaching in Ellis of multiple user objects. Ellis does disclose that program guide settings can be shared with another device using a user password (Ellis, [0094]), but there is no indication that there is more than one such user password per household.

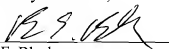
Therefore, Ellis does not teach or suggest every element of the claims. For at least these reasons, claims 1, 11, 15, 20, 31, 34, 36, 38, and 39, as well as the remainder of the claims which depend therefrom, are patentable over Ellis. The Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of these claims.

Claims 24 and 36 refer to a bit vector where the bit vector has a plurality of bits each being associated to a corresponding configuration parameter of the one of the user objects. The Office Action points to paragraph [0079] of Ellis as the basis for the rejection of this claim. The Applicant was unable to identify disclosure of the recited bit vector in this portion of Ellis. Paragraph [0079] is directed to receiving and displaying graphics and refers to a bitmap. However, a bitmap is simply a method of storing graphical information. The bitmap is not the recited bit vector and certainly does not contain bits that are associated to corresponding configuration parameters of the one of the user objects. The bitmap is unrelated to the user objects or to configuration parameters thereof. If this rejection of claims 24 and 36 is maintained the Applicant respectfully requests that the next Office Action explicitly indicate what item in Ellis corresponds to the recited bit vector. For at least these additional reasons, the Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 24 and 36.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If the Examiner has any questions or concerns, the Applicant encourages the Examiner to contact the Applicants' representative, Bruce Black, by telephone to discuss the matter.

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Respectfully submitted,

By   
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